

**BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
SCHEDULES MEETINGS TO HEAR CITIZENS' COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

During the coming months, the Board of Education will undertake its constitutionally mandated responsibility to examine and revise the Standards of Quality. These mandated requirements must be met by all public school divisions and the schools within their jurisdictions.

The Board of Education has scheduled a series of meetings to hear the suggestions and concerns of educators, parents, employers, civic and community leaders, and other interested citizens in addressing the needs, priorities, and programs in public schools across the state.

The hearings seek comment from the public about the standards of Quality, which define what constitutes a basic quality education in Virginia. Specific topics in the SOQ the Board would like to hear addressed in particular include:

- * Teacher-student ratios in grades K-12
- * Support staffing requirements, including principals and teacher's aides
- * Services which support student achievement
- * Professional development requirements for teachers and principals
- * The state-local funding formula applicable to the SOQ

Each of the public meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Registration of speakers will begin at 6:30 p.m. In order to give everyone a chance to speak, each speaker is asked to limit comments to three minutes. Speakers are encouraged to provide a written copy of their comments. The written copy may contain more detail than the three-minute public presentation. Where possible, speakers are asked to specifically identify the standard(s) they are addressing.

The locations of the meetings are listed below.

The Board of Education also encourages written comment by mail, fax, or e-mail. Comments may be mailed by September 1, 2002, to Margaret N. Roberts, executive assistant to the Board of Education, Post Office Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120; telephone 804/225-2924; fax: 804/225-2524; e-mail: SOQ@mail.vak12ed.edu. Where possible, persons are asked to specifically identify the standard(s) they are addressing. A copy of the Standards of Quality and additional information are available on the Internet at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/>

**Please share this announcement with other
interested persons and organizations.
*THANK YOU!***

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE STANDARDS OF QUALITY

NOTE: ALL HEARINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM

REGISTRATION FOR SPEAKERS BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

Date	Location/School	Address	Phone Number
Monday, April 29	Robert E. Lee High School Cafeteria	1200 North Coalter Street Staunton, VA 24401	540/ 332-3926
Tuesday, April 30	Round Hill Elementary School Auditorium	17115 Evening Star Drive Round Hill, VA 20141	540/ 338-6830
Wednesday, May 1	James Monroe High School Auditorium	2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401-3340	540/ 372-1100
Thursday, May 2	Lanier Middle School Auditorium	3710 Bevan Drive Fairfax, VA 22030	703/ 934-2400
Thursday, May 2	Robious Middle School Auditorium	2701 Robious Crossing Drive Midlothian, VA 23113	804/ 378-2510
Monday, May 6	Lake Taylor High School Auditorium	1384 Kempsville Road Norfolk, VA 23502	757/ 892-3200
Tuesday, May 7	Chatham High School Auditorium	100 Cavalier Circle Chatham, VA 24531	434/ 432-8305
Thursday, May 9	George Wythe High School Auditorium	1 Maroon Way Wytheville, VA 24382	276/ 228-3157
Monday, May 13	Hidden Valley Jr. High School Auditorium	4902 Hidden Valley School Road, SW Roanoke, VA 24018	540/ 772-7570
Tuesday, May 14	Abingdon High School Auditorium	705 Thompson Drive Abingdon, VA 24210	276/ 628-1850